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EXTENSION SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

CONFERENCE TO OUTLINE THE CONTRIBUTION OF
EXTENSION METHODS AND TECHNIQUES TOWARD THE
REHABILITATION OF WAR-TORN COUNTRIES

To consider possibilities for the most effective use of agricultural extension methods in the rural rehabilitation of war-torn areas, a conference will be held in Washington, D. C., September 19 to 22, 1944. The conference has been called jointly by the Extension Service and the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, United States Department of Agriculture. Its purpose is to review extension methods and organization in the various countries and to consider recommendations of extension methods and principles that will insure the most efficient use of emergency supplies and services during the period of rehabilitation and reconstruction in stricken areas, and hasten return to normal agricultural production.

Nature of Conference

The scheduled conference is intended to make available knowledge about agricultural extension work and methods to people who will be called upon to aid in restoring the agriculture of the war-torn areas. It is not a training conference, but exploratory and advisory in nature. It will be divided into two parts - general sessions and regional committee work concerned with the special problems and situations of major areas. Special invitations to the general sessions are being sent to agricultural attaches of governments represented in Washington; policy people and administrative heads of such agencies as the War Food Administration, United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, Foreign Economic Administration, and the Interim Food Commission; administrative heads of mission boards; State directors of extension; members of the Extension Service and Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations staff, USDA; deans and directors of State agricultural colleges; individuals to be invited from Farm Security administration, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, Agricultural Research Administration, and the Committee on Inter-American Affairs.

Members of the working groups will be persons who know about the rural life, history, educational facilities and limitations, people, and languages of countries in the region to which the group is assigned. Members of working groups are being invited to serve for the contribution they have to make personally, rather than as representatives of agencies or countries.

Committee Work and Recommendations

The working committees will discuss and make recommendations to the conference, with respect to each area, as follows:

(1) An evaluation of the effectiveness of the present extension systems and methods (prevailing in the respective countries of the area) in meeting the chief agricultural problems relating to farming practices, homemaking, and rural health.

(2) Suggestions for the improvement of extension work in the region in view of the extension principles which apply there. (These principles will be developed out of committee discussions of those familiar with successful extension methods in the United States and with conditions in the respective countries.)

This statement of principles will be especially important since it will be the unique feature of each committee's work. For most of the regions covered by the committees, no group of experts has ever tried to formulate extension principles. The suggestions made by the committees can, therefore, be an important contribution toward making extension work an effective instrument for agricultural development in the respective regions.

Fact Sheets on Countries and Regions

Authentic information will be available to the working committees at the time of the conference and will enable them to discuss the problems constructively.

Fact sheets on each region and country are now being prepared for use by the working committees at the time of the conference. Each fact sheet will include knowledge as to the background and present agricultural conditions of the country and a list of the main agricultural and other rural problems. If a country or region has had any extension work, as most of them have, the fact sheet will present general information on its history, organization, and personnel, including organizations through which extension work has been carried on, the type of provincial set-up, and the number of villages and farms covered. Duties of field workers will be listed. The statement will include information about experiment stations, by types, relations with farmers, researches being carried on by specialists in the stations, and the degree of cooperation between experiment stations and extension work; also teaching devices used in extension work and the rate of literacy among farmers.

The Extension Case History

Case histories illustrative of extension work in a number of countries in different regions will be furnished to some of the committees. They will be useful in the following ways:

- (1) They will give individual committee members who prepare them a chance to analyze extension problems in the light of their own experiences.

- (2) They can serve as the basis for discussions designed to lead to the formulation of principles.
- (3) After the conference, they can be used for the training of extension workers to serve in those countries.

Extension work is rural, beyond-the-classroom education that not only helps rural people increase their efficiency and their income but also helps to build those people themselves into understanding, accomplishing, self-confident, capable men, women, and youth, with vision and leadership. This building of rural people is the ultimate purpose of extension.

Agricultural extension work encourages rural people to adopt specific practices that will aid them in using personal initiative and judgment toward achieving better production and improved living standards. Though the problem requiring solution is usually a complex one, the solution comes through many people adopting simple practices. No one simple remedy will meet the need. Experience shows, in fact, that whenever several things are suggested as essential the people readily do some things and fail to do others, even though the complete solution depends upon the faithful carrying out of all the suggestions made.

In the case-history approach a person selects for analysis only one phase of a solution, or program, in order to discover why this phase was adopted or rejected by the people concerned. This one phase must, of course, be related to the others with which it is associated. For example, in writing a case history one would describe the selection of seed corn rather than a program designed to bring higher crop yields, culling a flock rather than a broad campaign of poultry improvement, upholstering a chair rather than the general idea of better homemaking.

Consultants

Authorities in such fields as rural health, nutrition, land tenure, farm credit, adult education, and youth problems, will be available for consultation by the committees.

Over-all Conference Committee:

Edmund deS. Brunner, Professor of Rural Education,
Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, N. Y.
Agricultural Adviser, Extension Service,
United States Department of Agriculture.

Gladys Gallup, Chief, Division of Field Studies and Training,
Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

Irwin T. Sanders, Professor of Sociology, University of
Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky,
Consultant, Extension Service,
United States Department of Agriculture.

Lester A. Schlup, Chief, Division of Extension Information,
Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

Clayton Whipple, In Charge, Balkan and Middle East Section,
Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations,
United States Department of Agriculture.

Douglas Ensminger, Rural Sociologist,
Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture,
Chairman.

Chairmen of Regional Committees under whose supervision information
is now being brought together:

1. Balkans (Greece, Yugoslavia, Albania, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria)
Clayton E. Whipple, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.
2. Southwestern Europe (Italy, Spain, Portugal) Victor B. Sullam,
Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.
3. Middle East (Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Turkey, Egypt,
Arabia) Afif I. Tannous, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.
4. Western Europe (Belgium, Netherlands, France)
Jerome T. Gaspard, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.
5. Central Europe (Czechoslovakia, Poland, Germany, Austria)
Conrad Taeuber, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.
6. Scandinavia (Norway, Denmark, Finland, Sweden)
Eric Englund, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.
7. India, Spencer Hatch, World Service Department,
Young Men's Christian Association, New York, N. Y.
8. Eastern Asia (China, Manchuria, Korea, Japan, Formosa)
Raymond T. Moyer, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.